

Cultural Considerations and Practices Related to Water

Resource Management Strategies
Chapter

Update 2013 California Water Plan
September 12, 2012



RMS Objectives:

- **Increase understanding** of significance of cultural considerations, perspectives, places, and practices related to water
- **Educate about diversity**, and provide examples of cultural considerations, perspectives, places and practices throughout California.
- **Describe current statutory and policy frameworks** in place to protect cultural considerations, perspectives, practices and resources related to water.
- **Identify potential management practices** that are most likely to benefit or affect cultural resource concerns.

The beauty and nourishment of Lower Falls has always drawn people...



The Native People of the McCloud River depended upon the river's bounty for survival. The Winnemem (McCloud River) Wintu Tribe lived, fished, and hunted around Lower Falls.

Norel-putis, a Wintu Elder, speaks of a village site here with ten houses and a chief from the Pit River Tribe. The Village people were Winnemem Wintu, Pit River, and Shasta.

The Winnemem Wintu name for Lower Falls is Nurumvitipom... (falls where the salmon turn back).



Wintu man, Charlie Pit, with fishing spear on the McCloud River. c. 1880.

Photograph courtesy of Shasta-Norte.

The river offered water, protection and food for the Winnemem Wintu. They thrived on the rich supply of salmon and other fish. In 1874, a traveler reported... "a party of six Indians on McCloud's Fork, speared over 500 salmon in one night!" The Winnemem Wintu also enjoyed acorns, pine nuts, wild onions, wild plums, chokecherries, mushrooms, elderberries, currants, watercress, and wild tubers.

Present day Winnemem Wintu people are still very connected to the River... "It is our life blood that flows from the mountain down to the people below"...Mark Franco, Headman, Winnemem Wintu Tribe.

Chinese Salmon



Florence Jones



Photocourtesy of Mark Franco.

Alfred Gillis



Photocourtesy of Shasta-Norte, University of California, Berkeley.

Today, the river is still a source of nourishment and is revered by the Winnemem Wintu as a "Sau'el mem (sacred water)".

A Wintu poet shares their reverence for the river, "Of all fair rivers I have known, no fairer waters than thine own"...Alfred Gillis, 1924. Many descendants of the McCloud Winnemem Wintu live in Redding, California.

Gorge area above Upper Falls.



Today, people fish for trout.

Photo by Cass Utter, Ashland, Oregon.

Many of us love to look at the river and its waterfalls. The river's sounds seem to ease our cares and worries and lift our spirits. So, whether you come to fish, swim, watch wildlife, hike, picnic, photograph, paint, or just sit and relax...let the river work its magic on you!

Rainbow Trout



Anglers at Middle Falls in 1915.

Photo courtesy of College of the Siskiyous.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's people fished for salmon and trout. The McCloud River was known for its unrivaled scenic beauty and abundant supply of fish.



RMS Objectives:

- **Provide examples California Native American Tribes' perspectives and information** about their relationship to water.
- Provide guidance and means to **identify, consider and address California Native American Tribes' issues and concerns.**



Major Themes

- Cultural Considerations, Perspectives, Places and Practices Related to Water
- Cultural & Historical Resources
- Statutory Frameworks & Policies
- California Native American



Major Issues

- **Tribal and Non-tribal Cultural Considerations, Perspectives, Places and Practices Related to Water**
 - Inadequate protection/enforcement of current laws and regulations
 - Conflicts/tradeoffs between uses/users
- **Cultural considerations and practices related to Climate Change**
- **Management Strategies most likely to benefit or affect cultural considerations and practices**
 - Protect – Increase enforcement resources
 - Plan – Early involvement
 - Partnerships

